

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MANILA 11317 221025Z

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ERDA-07 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00
COME-00 EPG-02 DODE-00 EB-07 FEAE-00 FPC-01 H-02
INR-07 INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-05
USIA-15 OES-07 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 ACDA-10
PA-02 PRS-01 /117 W

-----033352 221327Z /45

R 220800Z JUL 77

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2701

INFO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMCONSUL HONGKONG

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

UNCLAS MANILA 11317

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TECH, ENRG, RP

SUBJ: PHILIPPINES INAUGURATE FIRST GEOTHERMAL POWER PLANT

1. MRS. IMELDA MARCOS INAUGURATED THE PHILIPPINES' FIRST
GEOTHERMAL POWER PLANT IN HER HOME PROVINCE OF LEYTE JULY
21. THIS PLANT IS THE RESULT OF A JOINT EFFORT BETWEEN
THE NEW ZEALAND GOVERNMENT WHICH FUNDED EXPLORATORY DRILL-
ING IN THE AREA, THE PHILIPPINES NATIONAL OIL COMPANY-
ENERGY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION WHICH ACTUALLY DRILLED THE
FIRST STEAM PRODUCING WELL EARLY THIS YEAR, AND THE
NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION WHICH INSTALLED THE POWER PLANT.
UNION OIL OF CALIFORNIA LOANED THE PNOC CRITICAL MATERIALS
AND TECHNICAL EXPERTISE FROM ITS GEOTHERMAL DEVELOPMENT
OPERATIONS ON LUZON TO EXPEDITE THE START-UP OF THIS FIRST
GEOTHERMAL PLANT, THUS UP-STAGING THEMSELVES.

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2. THE PLANT IS A 3000 KW NON-CONDENSING STEAM TURBINE
PURCHASED BY NPC FROM MITSUBISHI OF JAPAN. IT WILL
INITIALLY PROVIDE 500 KW TO THE TOWN OF ORMAC, ALL THE ADDI-
TIONAL POWER THIS LOCAL FRANCHISE CAN ABSORB, AND EVENTUALLY
500 KW TO THE CAMPSITE AND ONGOING DRILLING OPERATIONS OF
PNOC-EDC.

3. A PNOC-EDC REPRESENTATIVE TOLD EMBOFF THAT THIS APPROACH WILL BE REPEATED IN ALL GEOTHERMAL AREAS IN WHICH PNOC IS INVOLVED, I.E., INSTALLATION OF A SMALL TURBINE TO MAKE USE OF EARLY WELLS, AS OPPOSED TO CAPPING THEM AND DRILLING/DEVELOPING THE ENTIRE GEOTHERMAL FIELD FIRST FOR A LARGER UNIT, 55MW, WHICH IS THE APPROACH TAKEN BY THE UNION OIL OPERATION FOR NPC. AS THIS IS A FAIRLY WASTEFUL USE OF THE RESOURCE -- IT TAKES 40 LBS. OF STEAM PER KILOWATT HOUR COMPARED TO 20 LBS. FOR THE LARGER, CONDENSING UNITS -- ONE MIGHT CONCLUDE THE POLITICAL PRESSURE ON PNOC TO BE THE FIRST TO PRODUCE GEOTHERMAL POWER, AND THAT IN THE HOME PROVINCE OF THE FIRST LADY, PROBABLY OUTWEIGHED THE TECHNICAL CONSIDERATIONS.
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Message Attributes

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Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Sent Date: 22-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Review Exemptions: n/a
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